

Case 2929

***Bhatia* Distant, 1908 (Insecta, Homoptera): proposed confirmation of *Eutettix? olivaceus* Melichar, 1903 as the type species**

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Abstract. The purpose of this application is to confirm *Eutettix? olivaceus* Melichar, 1903 as the type species of the leafhopper genus *Bhatia* Distant, 1908. Distant (1908) was in fact dealing not with *E. olivaceus* but with a still unnamed closely related species when describing *Bhatia*, but no instability will result from the confirmation of *E. olivaceus* as the type species.

1. The genus *Bhatia* Distant (1908, p. 357, fig. 227) was established for the nominal species *Eutettix? olivaceus* Melichar, 1903 (p. 191, pl. 6) from Sri Lanka. Recent studies show that the holotype of *E. olivaceus* (in the Moravian Museum, Brno, Czech Republic) is a different species from that used by Distant (1908) for his generic description of *Bhatia*. Distant's specimens, in the Natural History Museum, London, represent a new species of *Bhatia* currently being described (Zhang & Webb, in preparation).

2. Since Distant (1908) two further misidentifications of *Bhatia olivaceus* have been made by Ishihara (1961, p. 243) and by Linnavuori & Al-Ne'amy (1983, p. 22), both providing figures which are identifiable as *Omanella johnsoni* Merino, 1936 (p. 363). A further description by Singh-Pruthi (1934) of '*B. olivacea*' cannot be positively attributed to either *B. olivacea* or the new species. Linnavuori & Al-Ne'amy (1983, p. 21) proposed a tribe BHATIINI, based on their misidentification of *B. olivacea* (Melichar). At present this poses no problem since *O. johnsoni* is referable to the BHATIINI, and furthermore the name BHATIINI is a junior synonym of PARABOLOPONINI Ishihara, 1953 (p. 5) (Zhang & Webb, in preparation).

3. This case is referred to the Commission under Article 70b of the Code. I consider that stability would best be served by the simple course of retaining *Eutettix? olivaceus* Melichar, 1903 as the type species of *Bhatia* Distant, 1908.

4. The International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature is accordingly asked:

- (1) to confirm that the type species of *Bhatia* Distant, 1908 is *Eutettix? olivaceus* Melichar, 1903;
- (2) to place on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology the name *Bhatia* Distant, 1908 (gender: feminine), type species by monotypy *Eutettix? olivaceus* Melichar, 1903, as confirmed in (1) above;
- (3) to place on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology the name *olivaceus* Melichar, 1903, as published in the binomen *Eutettix? olivaceus* (specific name of the type species of *Bhatia* Distant, 1908).

References

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